dealerships (petrol pumps) in the State of Andhra Pradesh. In respect of 714 cases, 'No Objection Certificates' (NOCs), were sought by them for setting up ROs, from the District Collectors in the State.

(c) After the dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector w.e.f. 1.4.2002, the public sector OMCs have formulated their own policies for setting up of ROs in the country. The general criteria for setting up new ROs at different locations in the country, are based on expected Sales potential of a particular location and economic viability in various classes of market, such as Urban, Rural and Highways. The ROs are developed subject to obtaining NOCs from District Authorities, approval from the Department of Explosive, NOC from the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways (in case of ROs along the National Highways) and local Municipal approvals, etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Promotion of tourism in West Bengal

826. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to promote tourism in West Bengal particularly in North Bengal; and

(b) what steps are being taken to develop infrastructural facilities in existing and future tourist spots of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UTs Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits, Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects. Project proposals that are complete in all respect are approved on the basis of *inter- se* priority and funds released subject to availability under respective head.

An amount of Rs.388.98 lakh has been sanctioned during the year 2006-07 in the first phase for the Development of Tea Tourism Circuit under scheme for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits in North Bengal. The sanctioned project includes internal pathways, car parking, paved area, landscaping, water supply system, water purification system, waste disposal system, lighting and illumination system, boundary wall and signages etc. at indentified tea gardens.

In the Tenth Plan period an amount of Rs.2790.56 lakh has been sanctioned for development of infrastructure at tourist spots in West Bengal.

Development of Mysore as heritage city

827. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI LALIT SURI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation(KSTDC) is coming out with a Rs. 300 crore proposal of converting Mysore into a heritage city;

(b) whether the project will be taken up with the help of Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Revival Mission;

(c) whether the project is limited to corporation limits of Mysore, or are places like Srirangapatna and Nanjungud are included;

(d) whether the Centre has released the special allocation of Rs.50 crore to complete the pending 25 projects; and

(e) whether the KSTDC is planning to outsource the implementation of projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) No such project proposal has been received during the current financial year in the Ministry of Tourism. However, a project for integrated development of Mysore has been sanctioned of central financial assistance of Rs.358.21 lakh during 2005-06.

(d) No specific allocation is made for development of places of tourist interest in the country State-wise. Funds are provided for development and promotion of tourism on the basis of project proposals prioritised in consultation with the State Government/UT Administrations evey year. For the year 2005-06, funds to the tune of Rs. 1863.58 lakh have been